

Appln. No.: 09/840,386

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 13-23 are pending in the present application after this amendment cancels claims 1 and 3-12 and adds new claims 19-23. Claims 2, 13, and 18 are amended. No new matter is added by this amendment. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Claims 17 and 18 are allowed in the advisory action of December 12, 2005. Claim 18 is amended herein to avoid an issue of antecedent basis with respect to "said processing step" by changing the phrase to "an exposing step". It is respectfully submitted that claims 17 and 18 are therefore allowable.

Claims 4-11, which were withdrawn in response to an earlier restriction requirement, are herein cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue canceled claims 4-11 in a divisional application.

Claims 2 and 13 are amended to depend from allowable claim 17 and are therefore allowable. Claims 14-16 depend from claim 13 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17 is allowable.

New claims 19-23 include the features of claims 2 and 13-16 but depend from allowable claim 18. Therefore, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18 is allowable.

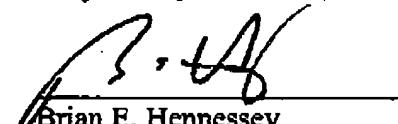
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

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However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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